

ON PAGE 4

WASHINGTON TIMES
15 January 1986

Former clerk charged with passing top-secret defense papers to Soviets

By Bill Gertz
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Randy Miles Jeffries, accused of providing the Soviets transcripts of secret congressional testimony about military communications, was indicted yesterday on two counts of espionage.

Mr. Jeffries, 26, was charged with delivering and attempting to deliver classified defense documents to Soviet agents and "to a person not entitled to receive them," U.S. Attorney Joseph E. diGenova said in a statement.

If convicted, Mr. Jeffries faces life imprisonment on the first count and 10 years and a \$10,000 fine on the second.

"This matter is being pursued vigorously because of the implications of the handling of classified information by the House of Representatives," Mr. diGenova told reporters.

Mr. Jeffries, a former clerk with a stenographic reporting company, was arrested Dec. 20 following an investigation by the FBI, the Defense Investigative Service and the Department of Defense. He is being held without bond.

According to court papers, Mr. Jeffries passed 28 sample pages, including one top secret document and two secret documents, to Soviet military officials. Soviet officials had planned to pay Mr.

Jeffries — who identified himself by the code name "Dano" — \$5,000 for the complete package of three documents, the papers state.

"One of the documents was a transcript of testimony given in closed session before the U.S. House of Representatives and was classified top secret," diGenova said.

Federal sources said the top secret document was a transcript of a House Armed Services subcommittee briefing by Assistant Defense Secretary Donald C. Latham on the Pentagon's command, control, communications and intelligence modernization program. The briefing included details of new systems planned for conducting nuclear war.

The indictment charges that Mr. Jeffries, while employed at the Acme Reporting Co., stashed about 200 pages of classified documents slated for destruction in the basement of an L Street office building.

Instead of destroying the documents, the court papers say, Mr. Jeffries hid them under his coat as he left work and told a friend he "needed to find a Russian to sell the documents to."

FBI counterintelligence agent Michael Giglia said in court Dec. 24 that FBI agents saw a man matching Mr. Jeffries' description get out of a taxicab and enter

the Soviet military office on Belmont Road in northwest Washington. Court papers say the taxi picked the man up in the vicinity of Mr. Jeffries' residence.

Mr. Giglia also testified that Mr. Jeffries had given a briefcase containing the three classified documents to a "trusted friend" to hold.

At the Dec. 24 court hearing, Mr. Jeffries' attorney, G. Allen Dale, asked that the case be dismissed for lack of evidence. He told the court a friend of Mr. Jeffries had said the briefcase had been destroyed at the urging of "someone on the phone."

Federal agents were alerted to the case by a "sensitive source" — believed to be an electronic interception of a telephone call — at the Soviet military office Dec. 14, according to court testimony.

The phone call was linked to Mr. Jeffries' residence on Rhode Island Avenue NW after FBI agents learned that a document mentioned during the call had been transcribed by Mr. Jeffries' employer.

An FBI agent posing as a Soviet intelligence operative named "Vladimir" contacted Mr. Jeffries six days later and arranged a meeting at the Logan Circle Holiday Inn, according to court papers.

At the Dec. 20 meeting, Mr. Jeffries told the undercover agent he had already



Randy Miles Jeffries

provided about 60 classified documents to Soviet military officials and could retrieve "a bagful" of secret and top secret documents that were torn in four sections, the papers say.

Mr. Jeffries, who is married and has three children, told the agent that the package of three documents was intact and that he had not been paid the \$5,000 he was promised, according to the papers.